(iii) The Extension Unit of I.C.A.R. Institutes and State Agricultural Universities are imparting training to farmers and extension workers.

(iv) The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) with an outlay of Rs. 1100 crores and has selected 2525 micro watershed spread over in different states of the country.

Use of fertilizers in industry vis-a-vis agriculture

6040. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers of Haryana and Punjab alleged that the heavily subsidised fertilizers are more used in industry than in agriculture;

(b) if so, whether the misuse of fertilizers has come to the notice of Government during the last one year;

(c) whether Government contemplate any concrete steps to check misuse of fertilizers by industries; and

(d) if so, the detials thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The following are some of the important steps taken to check the misuse of fertilisers by industries:—

(i) Sale and use of fertilisers for purposes other than fertilisation of soil and increasing productivity of crops has been prohibited under the Fertiliser (Control) Order,1985, except either with the prior permission of the Central Government or when purchased from the dealer possessing a valid Certificate of Registration for Industrial dealership issued by the Controller of Fertilisers.

(ii) Sale and use of Calcium Ammonium Nitrate for industrial use by industrial units in private sector has been banned.

(iii) Sale of Fertilisers, subject to the provision of Clause 25, of the FCO, for industrial use and for agricultural use from the same premises has been prohibited.

(iv) The Central and the State Governments are empowered to implement the provisions of the FCO and take necessary legal actions against the offenders, as under:

(1) Issue of warnings.

(2) Suspension and cancellation of Registration.

(3) Seizure of stocks.

(4) Criminal prosecution of offenders in which penalty imposed may extend to imprisonment from 3 months to 7 years with or without fine.

Drought Prone Areas in the Country

6041. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the drought prone areas in the country;

(b) what are the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) what are the steps presently being taken to combat drought situation in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) 627 Blocks in 96 districts of 13 States have been identified as drought prone in the country for implementation of the Drought Prone Areas Programmes. The details are given in the Annexure. (See Appendix 170, Annexure No. 120)

(c) Under the Drought Prone Areas Programme, identified areas are being